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CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULE  NEW

The House and Senate have been in recess this week and will reconvene on Monday, June 3.

The Senate on Monday will resume consideration of the farm bill (S. 954). The House next week will take up the first of its 12 appropriations bills for FY14: Military Construction-Veterans Affairs (H.R. 2216) and Homeland Security (H.R. 2217). (See AAU Weekly Wrap-up May 24, 2013 for additional background on the FY14 appropriations process.)

CONGRESSIONAL ISSUES

AAU, APLU, AND COGR EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR GOALS OF SENATE DATA ACT  NEW

AAU, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and the Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) wrote to Senators Mark Warner (D-VA) and Rob Portman (R-OH) on May 29 to express support for the goals of their legislation, the Digital Accountability and Transparency (DATA) Act (S. 994). The associations also expressed support for consideration of the bill by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Like its House counterpart (H.R. 2061), which was approved by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on May 22, the Senate measure is intended to make financial information about federal grants and contracts more transparent so that the federal government and the public have sufficient information to ensure that taxpayer monies are spent for their intended purposes.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH
ASSOCIATIONS SUBMIT COMMENTS ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND DATA

The National Research Council (NRC) earlier this month convened two public meetings at which AAU, the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and the Association of Research Libraries presented joint comments on federal agencies providing increased public access to the results of federally funded research. The associations’ comments—on access to scientific publications and data resulting from federally funded research—focused on compliance and on ways that public access objectives can be most effectively achieved with minimum administrative burden.

The NRC organized the two public sessions, held May 14-15 and May 16-17, on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), which in February had directed federal research agencies to solicit advice from the research community and other affected sectors on the best ways to implement free, public access. The OSTP policy has been strongly praised by virtually all stakeholders for establishing a set of public access goals and a process that effectively engages universities, librarians, publishers, and the public in their development and implementation.

The three associations will continue to work with OSTP, federal agencies, and other stakeholders as the agencies develop their public access policies.

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